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NEWS.

PROFESSOR JOHN M. COULTER, after an absence of nine months, most of which was spent in Europe, has returned to his duties at the University of Chicago.

CHARLES L. POLLARD has left the U. S. National Museum to become a member of the scientific staff of the G. & C. Merriam Company, a publishing house of Springfield, Mass. His relation to *The Plant World* remains unchanged.

NATURE for November 5 gives an account of the eighty-sixth meeting of the Swiss Association for the Natural Sciences at Locarno. Mr. E. Fischer of Berne read an interesting paper on the origin of species, especially as illustrated by the Uredineae.

WITH REGRET we announce that the December number of the *Journal of Applied Microscopy and Laboratory Methods*, established by the Bausch & Lomb Optical Co. in January 1898, will terminate its existence. The *Journal* has been of much service to biologists in disseminating information as to methods and equipment of laboratories.

AMONG THE papers of botanical interest at the Cassel meeting of the German Association for the Advancement of Science and Medicine may be mentioned Professor Drude's account of his experiments on mutation, in which he gives results differing from those of DeVries. He thinks there is no sharp line between variation and mutation.

WITH ITS SECOND VOLUME the *Forest Quarterly* becomes an independent journal, being published privately under the direction of a board of editors, with Professor Fernow as editor-in-chief. The board well represents the profession of forestry and includes men from the various centers of professional forestry work. The journal deserves the support of all those interested in this great and growing subject.

DR. J. N. ROSE, of the National Museum, returned last fall from his fourth journey to Mexico, having made an unusually large collection of plants, comprising over 1500 distinct numbers. He also sent to Washington more than 200 living plants, mostly Crassulaceae, probably representing the richest collection of such plants ever sent from Mexico. The type locality of nearly every species of north Mexico was visited, and living material was obtained from most of them.

THE new way of extracting turpentine, introduced two years ago by Dr. Charles H. Herty, working under the direction of the Bureau of Forestry, is resulting in a complete change of methods by turpentine operators all over the south. The economic saving of this new method is enormous. Not only is there a great increase in the amount of turpentine produced, but it is an important factor in saving the pine forests of the south. Trees from which turpentine has been extracted by the old method soon die from the wounds inflicted on them. The new system, on the other hand, is not fatal to the tree, and does very little damage to the timber.

THE LAST ISSUE of *Science* for 1903 publishes the list of grants made by the Carnegie Institution. Those for botany are as follows: W. A. CANNON, New York Botanical Garden, for investigation of plant hybrids, $500.—H. S. CONARD, University of Pennsylvania, for study of types of water-lilies in European herbaria, $300.—DESERT BOTANICAL LABORATORY (F. V. Coville and D. T. MacDougal, directors), $8,000.—E. W. OLIVE, Crawfordsville, Ind., researches on the cytological relations of the Amoebae, Acrasieae, and Myxomycetes, $1,000. — JANET PERKINS, working at the Royal Botanical Gardens, Berlin, for preliminary studies on the Philippine flora, $1900.—G. R. WIELAND, Yale University, for continuation of his researches on living and fossil cycads, $1,500.

TESTS to determine the strength of the principal American timbers used for construction purposes are now in progress at Washington, at Yale University, at Purdue University, and at the University of California. The Bureau of Forestry, under whose direction these tests are made, plans to make tables of the strength of different American woods in cross bending and breaking, compression with and against the grain, and shearing. No complete and satisfactory series of tests on large sticks of timber has ever been made in this country. Lumber manufacturers in the south and the Pacific coast states are especially interested in this work, and have contributed gratis much of the material. The chief timbers now being tested are the southern pines and the red fir of the Pacific coast. In the laboratories at Washington tests are now in progress on loblolly pine sticks 17 feet long and 8 by 14, 8 by 8, and 8 by 4 inches. Special attention is given to the effects of moisture on the strength of wood. The timbers tested are of the usual grades offered in the market and are not selected pieces. At the laboratory of the Yale Forest School small selected pieces of longleaf pine, without knots or other defects, are being tested as to the ultimate strength of the fibers. At Purdue University tests are being made with hardwood timbers.

IN THE early morning of December 11, Marsh Hall, occupied by the Yale Forest School, was seriously damaged by fire, which started in the basement and involved the entire four stories of the building. The damage was chiefly to the furnishings and the interior finishing of the building, though the various collections and the laboratory equipment of the Forest School also suffered. Fortunately the library, the equipment of the botanical laboratory, and the herbarium were but slightly damaged. A large collection of South American woods and a collection of west American conifers, all of which were in large blocks, were destroyed. The specimens of domestic woods were discolored by smoke but not otherwise injured. Many tools and much apparatus, the greater part of which can be replaced on short notice, were totally destroyed. The technological laboratory was badly injured, but much of the machinery can be repaired. One of the heaviest losses was the complete data, covering six months' work by an expert and two assistants in the technological laboratory, where in cooperation with the Bureau of Forestry a study is being made on moisture and volatile oil in relation to the strength of timber. A large force of men is already at work in repairing the interior of the building and all classes will be resumed without interruption at the opening of the term on January 9.

THE NEW YORK BOTANICAL GARDEN has secured a lease of the group of buildings at the Cinchona Botanical Garden belonging to the Colonial Government of Jamaica and will maintain them as a botanical laboratory under an agreement with the Colonial Government, and with the cooperation of the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations of Jamaica. Sufficient land for experimental purposes and for a nursery is included in the leasehold privileges. The buildings include a residence known as Bellevue House, three laboratories, two ranges of glass, and small buildings suitable for lodging. Investigators are there offered the use of tables in the laboratory buildings; lodging in Bellevue House or in one of the other buildings at Cinchona; the use of land for experimental purposes; privileges to study the plantations at Cinchona, and also those at Hope and Castleton Gardens; privilege to consult the botanical library of the Department of Public Gardens and Plantations at Hope Gardens, and to take books therefrom to Cinchona under such conditions as may be imposed by the Director of Public Gardens and Plantations; easy access to an immense number of indigenous species in the primitive forests adjacent to Cinchona.

All persons who may apply for permission to study at Cinchona must submit such evidence as the Director-in-Chief of the New York Botanical Garden may require that they are competent to pursue investigations to advantage. While in residence at Cinchona they will be under the supervision of the Hon. William Fawcett, Director of Public Gardens and Plantations, to whose interest and advice the establishment of this American tropical laboratory is largely due. A laboratory fee, payable to the New York Botanical Garden, will be required of persons granted the above privileges.

Upon approval by the Scientific Directors of the New York Botanical Garden, any other institution, society, or individual, may be assigned the use of a table at Cinchona by the payment of $100 annually, which will entitle them to nominate investigators without the payment of fees; but not more than one person may be granted the use of any such table at the same time. The necessary expenses for a month's residence at Cinchona, including traveling expenses to and from ports on the Atlantic seaboard of the United States, are from $140 to $200; for two months' residence $160 to $230.